TRENDS

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, February 9, 1989 -- Carloadings* originated on major U.S. railroads during the week ended February 4 totaled 320,158, down 0.6 percent from the comparable week of 1988 and 6.2 percent below the preceding week, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) reported today. The railroads reporting account for approximately 94 percent of all rail carloads.

Carloadings originated were up 5.5 percent in the East but down 7.9 percent in the West, compared with a year ago.

From the comparable 1988 week, loadings of chemicals were up 2,979 cars (11.4 percent), and loadings of motor vehicles and equipment were up 2,860 cars (15.5 percent). Grain loadings were down 2,689 cars (8.0 percent), while coal was down 2,569 cars, (2.3 percent)..

Cumulative carloadings for the first 5 weeks of 1989 totaled 1,637,454, up 1.2 percent from the comparable period a year ago.

Intermodal traffic on Class I railroads -- which is not included in the carloadings -- totaled 113,587 trailers and/or containers for the week ended February 4, up 1.0 percent from the comparable week of 1988.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 5 weeks of 1989 was 536,288 trailers and/or containers, up 0.4 percent from 1988.

The AAR also estimated that ton-miles carried on major railroads in the week ended February 4 totaled 18.5 billion, 0.5 percent below the comparable week of 1988. Cumulative volume for the first 5 weeks of 1989 was an estimated 95.0 billion ton-miles, up 1.7 percent from the comparable period of last year.

**Because of changes in reporting, 1989 figures are not comparable to previous years, except for 1988, which has been restated for purposes of comparison with 1989.*

(more)

WEEKLY TRAFFIC OF MAJOR RAILROADS
FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 4, 1989

CARLOADS ORIGINATED, BY COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY	WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 4, 1989	COMPARISON WITH SAME WEEK OF 1988	CHANGE	COMPARISON WITH PRECEDING WEEK	CHANGE
Grain	30,746	33,435	-8.0 %	32,273	-4.7 %
Farm Products, Ex Grain	2,380	2,925	-18.6	2,608	-8.7
Metallic Ores	12,511	12,254	2.1	14,242	-12.2
Coal	111,416	113,985	-2.3	125,338	-11.1
Crushed Stone, Sand & Gravel	11,255	10,936	2.9	12,016	-6.3
Nonmetallic Minerals	8,558	9,797	-12.6	8,340	2.6
Grain Mill Products	10,243	10,153	.9	10,546	-2.9
Food & Kindred Products	8,741	9,479	-7.8	9,333	-6.3
Primary Forest Products	9,487	10,536	-10.0	10,100	-6.1
Lumber & Wood Products	6,978	7,378	-5.4	7,401	-5.7
Pulp, Paper & Allied Products	11,045	11,408	-3.2	10,809	2.2
Chemicals	29,220	26,241	11.4	28,554	2.3
Petroleum Products	4,891	4,596	6.4	5,121	-4.5
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	9,306	8,918	4.4	9,887	-5.9
Coke	5,770	5,738	.6	5,612	2.8
Metals & Products	10,426	10,353	.7	10,595	-1.6
Motor Vehicles & Equipment	21,367	18,507	15.5	21,512	-.7
Waste & Scrap Materials	8,973	9,014	-.5	9,289	-3.4
Forwarder & Shipper Assn.	9	22	-59.1	13	-30.8
All Other Carloads	6,836	6,323	8.1	7,613	-10.2
Total	320,158	321,998	-.6 %	341,202	-6.2 %

SUMMARY: CARLOADS ORIGINATED, INTERMODAL TRAFFIC AND ESTIMATED TON-MILES

TRAFFIC	WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 4, 1989			CUMULATIVE: 5 WEEKS ENDING FEBRUARY 4, 1989		
	1989	1988	CHANGE	1989	1988	CHANGE
Carloads Originated	320,158	321,998	-.6 %	1,637,454	1,618,076	1.2 %
Intermodal Traffic						
Trailers	68,308	69,858	-2.2	319,355	330,867	-3.5
Containers	45,279	42,586	6.3	216,933	203,087	6.8
Total	113,587	112,444	1.0	536,288	533,954	.4
Estimated Ton-Miles						
Class I Railroads (Billions)	18.5	18.6	-.5 %	95.0	93.4	1.7 %

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